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(54) NEW PROTEIN

(57) Abstract:

PROBLEM TO BE SOLVED: To obtain a new protein of a kind of a matrix metalloprotease(MMP) having an activating function against MMP-2, expressing specifically on the surface of a human tumor cell and useful for diagnosis and treatment of cancer, etc., such as a diagnosis of the presence of tumor cell and the grade of malignancy of tumor.

SOLUTION: This is a kind of a matrix metalloprotease(MMP) having an activating function against a latent-type MMP-2 which specifically expresses on the surface of a human tumor cell, and this new

protein has the activity of the same level as a naturally occurring membrane-type MMP (MT-MMP) that is an activating factor against a latent-type MMP-2 beside MT-MMP-1. This protein is useful for a research relating to diagnosis and treatment of cancer, etc., such as a diagnosis of the presence of tumor cell and the grade of malignancy of tumor, and other medical and physiological uses, etc. The protein is obtained by isolating an mRNA from cells of human cancer of mouth, preparing a cDNA library using the mRNA, screening the library using a probe, integrating the obtained DNA into a vector and expressing the DNA in host cells.

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